

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Public Safety Names Three Division Chiefs, *Promotes New Trooper Majors*

MONTGOMERY — Alabama Department of Public Safety Director Col. J. Christopher Murphy has promoted three Alabama state troopers to major, the highest trooper merit-system rank. The three new majors, whose promotions became effective March 1, join Murphy's staff as Public Safety's newest division chiefs.

Named chief of the Alabama Bureau of Investigation is Major Gerald Lee Conner, 54. The Protective Services Division chief is Major Herman Wright, 50; and Major James D. Lyons, 43, has assumed command of the Administrative Division.

Murphy said the three new division chiefs are career state troopers who share his commitment to "moving the Department of Public Safety forward.

"Majors Conner, Lyons and Wright are important partners in moving Public Safety from 'good' to 'great,'" said Murphy. "We look to their leadership, their experience, proven ability and the highest of professional and ethical standards in serving Alabama and fulfilling this agency's mission."

Conner is a 29-year veteran state trooper. Following initial service with the Highway Patrol Division, he transferred to the ABI where he has served for more than 22 years and progressed through the ranks from trooper to major. He was a regional commander for ABI Investigative Services prior to his appointment as ABI division chief.

Wright began service as an Alabama state trooper in 1980. His career progression includes assignments with Public Safety's Highway Patrol, Service and Administrative divisions. Prior to his appointment as chief of Protective Services, he commanded the department's training academy in Selma and since December served as assistant chief of the Administrative Division.

Lyons' 22 years of service as an Alabama state trooper include assignments with the department's Driver License and Highway Patrol divisions. He served as commander of the Mobile Highway Patrol Troop before assuming command of the Administrative Division.

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